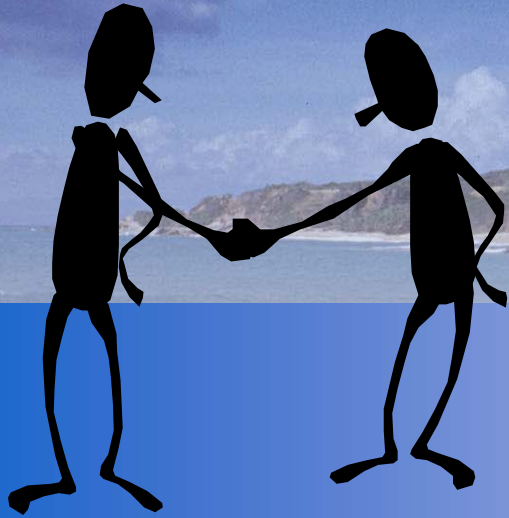




Welcome
to the
**first meeting of the
Restoration Advisory Board
(RAB)**
for
Western Vieques

August 18, 2004





1. Introductions

Jeff Harlow

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Atlantic

Environmental Project Manager for Western Vieques





2. Introduction to RABs

**Susana Struve
CH2M HILL**

Community Involvement Task Manager



Installation Restoration (IR) Program

- **The Department of Defense (DoD) started the IR Program to investigate and clean up old hazardous waste sites**
- **The IR Program follows the procedures of:**
 - Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)
- **The IR Program also can include actions under:**
 - Resource Conservation & Recovery Act (RCRA), which manages the disposal of present and future wastes



Community Involvement is important

- **Why should the local community be involved?**
 - Potentially affected by cleanup decisions
 - Should have input into the decision process
 - Have different interests, priorities and perspectives
 - Can help identify issues and values that should be considered
 - Local residents who used to work there can provide information on sites



Community involvement is required in cleanup decisions

- **CERCLA:**

- Public comments on Proposed Remedial Action Plan (leads to cleanup decision)
- Public comments on Five-Year Review (after cleanup method is in place: is it working?)

- **RCRA:**

- Public comments on Corrective Measures Study (leads to cleanup decision)



Restoration Advisory Board Policy

- **Navy guidance promotes Restoration Advisory Boards (RABs) to increase community involvement**
 - RABs are based in policy – not a legal requirement)
 - RAB participation ensures consistent public awareness and involvement throughout the investigation process, not just at the end (cleanup decision)
- **RAB meetings are always open to the public**



Purpose of a RAB

- **A forum for exchanging information between agencies and the community**
 - Opportunity for community to review progress and discuss with the agencies' decision makers
 - Opportunity for agencies to obtain constructive community review and comments on environmental cleanup activities
 - Opportunity for community to provide information on sites from former workers at the facilities
- **A RAB does not make decisions on environmental investigation and cleanup activities**



How this RAB was formed

- **At a TRC meeting, the community members and the agencies collectively decided that it was time to convert the TRC to a RAB**
- **Public information workshop was held on March 12, 2004**
- **Public notice in local newspapers**
 - Announcing the workshop (February 2004)
 - Inviting all interested members of the public to apply for the RAB (March 2004)
- **Applications distributed to the mailing list and community leaders**
- **19 applications were received; all were accepted**



Members of this RAB:

- **19 community members**

- 16 local residents, including a Municipality of Vieques representative, and 3 people who have spent many years visiting the island

- **3 Federal agency members**

- Navy, EPA Caribbean Office (Vieques), US Fish & Wildlife Service (Vieques National Wildlife Refuge)

- **2 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico members**

- Environmental Quality Board, Special Commissioner on Vieques and Culebra



Role of RAB Community Members

- **Promote community awareness**
 - Actively share information with the community
- **Provide suggestions, and community input**
 - To be used by the agencies in making decisions on investigations and cleanup
- **Do not vote on issues or make recommendations as a group**
 - Each member provides advice as an individual



Role of RAB Community Members

(continued)

- **Attend RAB meetings**
 - Participate openly and constructively
- **Review and comment on draft final or final documents**
 - In between the meetings
- **Identify projects for technical assistance (TAPP) funding**
 - TAPP consultant helps community understand technical documents
 - In progress now



Role of Agency RAB Members

- **Attending meetings**
- **Serving as a technical resource for RAB members**
- **Reviewing documents**
- **Facilitating resolutions**
- **Ensuring standards and regulations are met**

Officers of the RAB

- **The RAB will be led by two Co-Chairs**
- **Navy Co-Chair is appointed (Jeff Harlow)**
- **Community Co-Chair is elected by RAB community members**
 - He/she will serve a two-year term and can be re-elected
 - Later in this meeting, we'll talk about nominating and electing the Community Co-Chair



Role of RAB Community Co-Chair

- **The Community Co-chair will:**
 - Coordinate with the Navy Co-chair and other RAB members to prepare meeting agendas
 - Pass along information between other RAB members and the Navy Co-chair
 - Ensure that community issues and concerns are addressed
 - Assist in disseminating information to the general public
 - Report meeting proceedings to community



Role of RAB Navy Co-Chair

- **The Navy Co-Chair will:**
 - Coordinate with the Community Co-Chair to prepare meeting agendas
 - Ensure community concerns are taken into consideration by the Navy and regulators
 - Provide relevant policies and documents to the RAB
 - Ensure that administrative support is provided for RAB meetings (meeting notices, minutes)
 - Report meeting proceedings to Navy



RAB Training

- **RAB members are provided training as needed in their duties and operating procedures**
 - Training will be given during RAB meetings
 - Training will be through a collaborative effort by the Navy, the University of Puerto Rico, EPA, EQB, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service
 - A nationwide RAB Co-Chair training event is held every few years. Pablo Connelly attended the 2004 session





3. Summary of 2004 RAB Co-Chair Training

Pablo Connelly
Municipality of Vieques
Public Works Director

(formerly the TRC Municipality Co-Chair)





4. RAB Operating Procedures

Susana Struve
CH2M HILL

Community Involvement Task Manager



RAB Operating Procedures

- **EPA/DoD guidance: RABs should have clear operating procedures**
- **A charter signed by members sets up:**
 - Policies on attendance
 - Procedures for replacing, adding, or removing members
 - Length of service for Community Co-Chair
 - Methods of resolving disputes
 - Process for incorporating public input



Draft Charter

- **Based on draft TRC Charter**
 - Please take it home to read
 - Please bring your comments and questions to the next meeting
- **We would like to finalize the charter and sign it by the 3rd RAB meeting**

Electing a Community Co-Chair

- **Co-Chair must be a RAB community member**
 - Any community member can nominate themselves or someone else
- **Election is during a RAB meeting**
 - Show of hands or secret ballot
 - Can go outside or in another room for privacy
 - Voting requires a quorum (51%): at least 11 of the 19 community members must be present





5. RAB Members Discussion



6. Status Report on Western Vieques Investigations

Jeff Harlow

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Atlantic

Environmental Project Manager for Western Vieques



Proposed NPL Listing for Vieques

- **National Priorities List (NPL) is EPA's priority list of contaminated sites**
- **EPA proposes to list areas of Vieques and Culebra that were used by DoD as one "site"**
 - *Federal Register* notice on August 13, 2004
 - Public comments due to EPA by October 12th
 - EPA may withdraw listing of Culebra, if Army Corps of Engineers and Puerto Rico can sign an agreement on what needs to be done there



Proposed NPL Listing for Vieques

(continued)

- **After considering comments, EPA will publish final NPL listing**
- **EPA, EQB and Navy will negotiate an Interagency Agreement**
 - Will combine east and west Vieques under one program
 - Will set goals, schedules and procedures for:
 - *Document reviews*
 - *Site Management Plan*
 - *Community Involvement Plan agreed to by all agencies*



Nine of 17 sites recommended for No Further Action

- **Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation and baseline risk assessment completed**
- **No Further Action report published in 2003**
 - Bilingual summary is available on request
 - EQB held a public hearing in January 2004
 - Waiting for EQB's recommendation

Eight of 17 sites need more detailed study (Remedial Investigation)

- **Inactive Open Burn/Open Detonation site (“SWMU 4”)**
 - Used for thermal destruction of unserviceable munitions ~1965-1980
- **Draft report from Munitions/Explosives Remedial Investigation is now in review**
- **Work plan for Environmental Remedial Investigation is now in review**

Eight sites need more detailed study

(continued)

- **Mangrove Disposal Site at Kiani Lagoon (“SWMU 6”)**
 - Used for disposal of trash (lubricants, oils, solvents, and paint) ~1965-1980
- **Draft Remedial Investigation report is now being reviewed by regulators**

Eight sites need more detailed study

(continued)

- **Quebrada Disposal Site (“SWMU 7”)**
 - Disposal of trash (lubricants, oils, solvents, and paint) ~1965-1980
- **Draft Remedial Investigation report is now being reviewed by regulators**

Eight sites need more detailed study

(continued)

- **Abandoned Power Plant (“AOC H”)**
 - Power plant was operated 1941-1943
 - An above-ground storage tank held diesel fuel to run the power plant
 - Used for Fire Fighter training ~1960s-1980s
- **Draft Remedial Investigation report is now being reviewed by regulators**

Eight sites need more detailed study

(continued)

- **Former Waste Oil Tank at Bldg. 2016 (“AOC E”)**
 - Underground storage tank (UST) for used motor oil
 - Contaminated soil found during removal of UST
- **Draft Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study is now being reviewed**
 - Three cleanup alternatives being considered
 - Proposed Plan will present the preferred alternative



Eight sites need more detailed study

(continued)

- **Asphalt Plant (“AOC I”)**
 - Former storage tank area, stained with asphalt
- **Remedial Investigation is underway**
 - Field work (taking samples) started August 9th



Eight sites need more detailed study

(continued)

- **Former Operations/Staging Area Disposal Site (“AOC J”)**
 - Disposal of solid waste (trash) and possibly hazardous waste ~1965-1973
- **Draft Remedial Investigation report is now being reviewed by regulators**

Eight sites need more detailed study

(continued)

- **Former Staging and Operations Area (“AOC R”)**
 - Construction storage & Public Works operations ~1965-1971
 - Above-ground storage tank held fuel
 - Vehicle maintenance area (like an automotive garage)
- **Remedial Investigation was underway**
 - Field work (preparing to take samples) started August 9th
- **While clearing vegetation, the team found several military munitions items**
 - Could potentially contain explosives
 - Work stopped immediately to identify the items



Eight sites need more detailed study

(Former Staging and Operations Area (“AOC R”) continued)

- **August 11th-12th: Unexploded ordnance (UXO) technicians surveyed the area**
 - Identified a total of 14 munitions items
 - It appears that all of the items are inert
 - *There is probably no explosive hazard associated with them*
 - *However, a formal survey is required to be sure*
- **One of the items was found on Municipality of Vieques property**

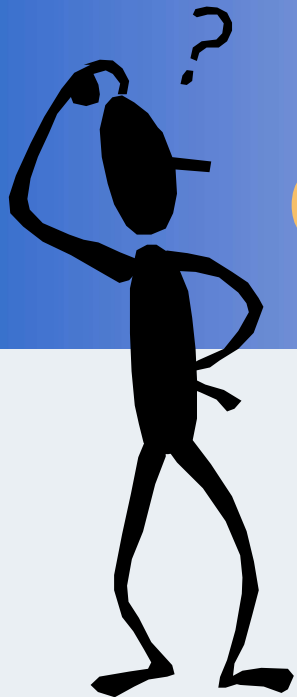


Eight sites need more detailed study

(Former Staging and Operations Area (“AOC R”) continued)

- **The environmental field investigation has been postponed**
 - A plan is being developed to survey the area, identify and remove any munitions
- **To protect public safety, access to the site will be closed off until the survey is completed**
 - Local police have been notified
 - The Municipality of Vieques will receive a description of the new site on their land





Questions? Comments?



Closing

- **Action items**
- **Parking lot**
- **Next RAB meeting**
- **Thank you and good night!**

